

Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet

January – February 2004

Communication Issues (Terry Wright, ext. 336)



Status of the Enhancement Services' Hot Sheet

- There was a general discussion at the Enhancement Services Steering Committee (ESSC) Meeting in February on whether we should resurrect the Hot Sheet. The ES Hot Sheet was discontinued about a year ago when the NWIFC started producing a more general Hot Sheet.
- The ES Steering Committee recommended that the Enhancement Services' Division should start sending out Hot Sheets on a bi-monthly basis.



Future ESSC and Hatchery Manager Meetings:

- There was a general discussion as to whether we should have regularly scheduled Enhancement Services' Steering Committee and/or Hatchery Manager meetings.
- The ES Steering Committee recommended that we hold two meetings a year. The January/February meeting would focus on policy issues that we need direction on. The August meeting would focus on hatchery operations.
- There was also a consensus to continue to offer video conferencing for future meetings to make it easier for everyone to participate.

Implementation of Hatchery Reform



Process and timelines for hatchery reform implementation and Puget Sound NEPA Review (Terry Wright, ext 336):

- The Hatchery Reform Coordinating Committee (HRCC) has developed a process for implementation of the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) recommendations and other components of hatchery reforms. The attached memo helps clarify how this process will work and how it fits with other ongoing hatchery reform efforts of the co-managers.
- Technical meetings between HSRG and NWIFC co-managers technical staffs to review controversial HSRG recommendations and to discuss HSRG technical tools are ongoing.
- A wrap-up technical meeting (May 18, 2004) including full broad participation from tribal and WDFW enhancement technical staff will review each of the discussions and demonstrate the HSRG tools that are described in the attached memo.
- Co-manager policy meeting (June 10, 2004), will review information and provide policy guidance for use in subsequent regional co-managers meetings to finalize production programs.
- The region specific meetings will occur between June and October, 2004.
- The programs will be captured through modifications to the future brood document (FBD), hatchery and genetic management plans (HGMPs) and Resource Management Plans (RMPs). Monitoring programs, research, and adaptive management, will be captured in HGMPs and/or RMPs as appropriate.

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- The revision of these documents requires waiting until after the Draft Environmental Impact Statement is published (November 2004), but before the final EIS is published July 2005.



Status of Resource Management Plans (Ken Currens, ext 374):

- Ken reviewed the seven basic elements of the co-managers' hatchery reform and adaptive management strategy, which are included in the hatchery resource management plans. He demonstrated an early version of a risk evaluation model that could be used by hatchery managers to diagnose where actions could reduce risk.



Update on the Hatchery EIS Process (Dietrich Schmitt, ext 339):

- Currently hatchery EIS consultants are working the Affected Environment section which establishes baseline conditions of resources to be evaluated within the document.
- NWIFC is currently waiting for comments from WDFW on the Non-Chinook RMP. The RMP can be submitted to NMFS once the comments are received.
- Once the RMPs are received by NMFS, an internal Northwest Region NMFS review will occur. Following that, a notice of intent to prepare an EIS will be published in the Federal Register. Once the notice is in the Federal Register the RMPs & HGMPs will be available for a public review and comment period.
- Upon taking into account comments from the public scoping period (anticipated to occur in mid-May) final alternatives will be developed.
- Alternatives will then be evaluated for their effects on the resources identified in the Affected Environment section of the document (May-November).
- Plans are to have a draft EIS prepared by November 2004 with a final EIS in July of 2005. Final ESA determination would follow sometime in the winter of 2005. The final determination would hopefully provide limitations to ESA Section 9 take prohibitions.



Status of the hatchery reform spreadsheet (Kyle Brakensiek, ext. 391):

- A spreadsheet to track tribal hatchery reform recommendations and implementation was distributed to tribal enhancement biologists in early March. The purpose of this spreadsheet is to (1) develop a comprehensive database to describe tribal needs for reform implementation; (2) create a long-term tracking tool; and (3) document independent reviews and recommendations including tribal agreement, contention and/or rejection.
- The distributed spreadsheet only includes (but is certainly not limited to) final HSRG recommendations. To further develop this tracking tool tribes have been requested to expand on it by providing additional information on reform recommendations from other group reviews/processes, reform implementation over the past five years, estimate implementation costs and include commentary on reform efforts and issues.
- A small sub-committee workgroup has been suggested to further develop this tracking tool/database.

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Hatchery Reform Project Funding (Ron Olson, ext. 335)



Update on 2004 Hatchery Reform Proposal Ranking:

- For 2004, 22 project proposals were submitted from 9 tribes. Results of the ranking process were approved at the February NWIFC meeting. The budget allowed for funding 17 of the projects.
- Project contracts will be issued after the NWIFC receives its award notification from the IAC.



Changes in the 2005 ranking process:

- The project proposal ranking process will be revisited for 2005. Ron Olson will convene a workgroup this spring to review the evaluation format. Volunteers for the workgroup include Alan Chapman, Paul Dorn, Larry Ward, Bill St.Jean, Mike Crewson, Steve Meadows, Chris Weller, and Joe Hinton.
- The workgroup will develop recommendations for policy review. The process will probably limit proposals to the list of projects described on the forthcoming hatchery reform tracking spreadsheet. The issue of assigning priorities to different types of projects will also be discussed.

Marking Issues (Ron Olson, ext. 335)



Mass Marking Initiative Update:

- At the request of Representative Norm Dick, the co-managers submitted a mass marking implementation plan. This plan was rejected by the Representative because mass marking was not proposed at all facilities. Another plan is currently under tribal policy review.

Fish Health Issues (Bruce Stewart, ext 338)



Status of Efforts to Revise the Co-Managers Disease Policy:

- Fish health staffs from the NWIFC, WDFW, USFWS, and NOAA are drafting recommended revisions to the Co-Managers Disease Policy.
- The reasons for revising the Policy are to (1) address the fish health risks posed by new management strategies, (2) make the policy more scientifically defensible, and (3) to address strategies that will minimize pathogen amplification from our hatcheries.
- Enhancement Biologists will be able to review and comment on the proposed revisions before they are passed onto policy people for approval.



Multi-Disipline Review of Egg and Fish Transfers:

- There was a discussion at the ESSC meeting on whether NWIFC should provide a more extensive review of proposed egg and fish transfers. The NWIFC is currently only evaluating the fish health risks associated with these transfers.
- There was no clear consensus on whether the NWIFC should be providing genetic and ecological reviews in addition to fish health.

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- The NWIFC agreed to provide Enhancement Biologists with a straw man proposal on a multi-discipline review process.
- Also discussed at this time was the need to update the two distribution lists that we use to send information out to you. I have attached the updated Enhancement Biologist and General Hatchery distribution list for your information. Also attached is the Affected Tribes by Watershed Table. This is the table we use to determine who impacted by proposed egg and fish transfers. Please review and give me any corrections.



Status of NPDES Permits For Tribal Hatcheries:

- EPA has contracted with Tetra-Tech Consulting Firm to develop a general NPDES permit for tribal hatcheries in Washington State.
- EPA expects to finish their internal review in April after which they will provide Tribes with a brief review period (2-4 weeks) before they send it out for a 30 day public review period.
- EPA expects to be ready to issue NPDES permits to tribal hatcheries by the end of the year.

Other Issues



Status of hatchery tech workshops (Jim Bertolini, ext 355):

- Next workshop, "Release and Planting Methods for Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries" will be offered Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at the NWIFC Conference Center and via video conferencing at satellite sites.
- Spawning, fertilization and egg incubation will be the topic of this summer's workshop.
- Early next year, we will have a program devoted to chum salmon, their biology and natural history, and rearing and release methods.



Update on release module of Hatpro (Ken Phillipson, ext 337):

- Hat-Pro release version 4.02 was released on 3/22/04. It is a culmination of enhancements and fixes since the release last June. The announcement is attached.

Attachments

- ▶ Affected tribe by watershed Table
- ▶ Enhancement Biologist and General Hatchery Distribution Lists
- ▶ HR Implementation Plan
- ▶ HatPro Release Update
- ▶ Hatchery Risk Assessment Project